The (private) lessons that bind: Tutoring in Takoma Park

By Taylor Dibbert

If you peruse the community board at the Community Center, Takoma Park might seem like it’s inundated with tutors sharing knowledge on a range of topics. From a teacher’s perspective, what’s tutoring really like? What drives these private instructors? For the tutors profiled here, they share both a love for teaching and a sincere appreciation for everything that the Takoma Park community has to offer.

Nick Leonard, 28, was born and raised in Takoma Park. Leonard started taking music seriously in high school and studied it at Montgomery College, where he earned an associate degree in 2015. “Guitar has always been my main instrument,” he said. But he’s learned how to play several other instruments over the years – including drums, the piano and bagpipes.

Leonard is currently in two bands, including a metal band called Myopic. He plays in a choir as well. “Most of my students are guitar students,” he said. However, he’s also taught bass guitar, piano and drums.

Despite tutoring music not being the easiest way to make a lot of money, he’s been teaching for about eight years. He does this work because he truly likes it. He mostly works with kids and teenagers.

“I really enjoy seeing them develop their musical skills,” he said.

Leonard gets a lot out of it too. Since his students are interested in different instruments, he gets to learn new things as well. He’s also an excellent performer, often doing this work because he loves music.

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PRIVATE LESSONS □ Page 3
On Sept. 18, 2019, the City Council approved Resolution 2019-43, in support of Maryland Community Land Trust funding in the amount of $150,000 to provide grants for the New Hampshire Avenue Signage and FACADE Program. Also on Sept. 18, Ordinances 2019-29 and 2019-30 were adopted approving contracts for services in the amount of $35,780 each with the Old Takoma Business Association and the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority.

Ordinance 2019-28 was adopted on Sept. 25, 2019 (first reading of the ordinance took place on Sept. 18) authorizing the execution of an Agreement between the City of Laurel and City of Takoma Park Police Departments. Ordinance 2019-29, execution of a contract for tree pruning and removal with Excel Tree Experts Company Inc. The contract is for an amount up to $74,546. The Council authorized purchase of a replacement skid steer from Metro Bobcat Inc. by adoption of Ordinance 2019-32. The purchase amount was $29,900. On the same evening, the Council adopted Resolution 2019-44, reappointing Tina Murray (Ward 4) to the Tree Commission.

On Oct. 2, 2019, the Council adopted Ordinance 2019-33 authorizing execution of a contract for economic development services with City Innovate. The up to $10,000 contract will provide technical assistance, access to their online project management platform, solicitation support, and training around the City’s challenged-based procurement program through the Startup in Residence (STIR) network. Resolution 2019-45 was adopted to reappoint Ellen Madidman-Tanner (Ward 2) to the Ethics Commission. The Council appointed Tawanda Anderson (Ward 1) and Nicole Farrarol (Ward 1) to the Grants Review Committee by Resolution 2019-46.

On Oct. 16, 2019, the Council approved a contract with Public Policy Partners, Inc. to serve as the Council’s Legislative Advocate by Ordinance 2019-34. The first-year contract amount is $30,000. Also on Oct. 16, the Council adopted the 2019-20 Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan by Resolution 2019-47. Councilmember Smith voted no on the resolution.

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES
The City Council is seeking applicants for a number of boards, commissions and committees. Takoma Park residency is required unless noted. If you are interested in appointment, please drop in to observe a meeting then submit the online application: http://bit.ly/bcc-application. Meetings are posted on the City website calendar. Additional information is available at takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees. Positions are available or terms are expiring on the following:

Arts and Humanities Commission: The Commission advises the City Council on matters involving the arts; encourages and aids in the appreciation, participation, and awareness of the arts; encourages cooperation and coordination among individual arts organizations and those organizations concerned with the arts in Takoma Park; and facilities opportunities for artists and supports the development of self-sustaining arts programs.

Board of Elections: The Board plans and conducts City elections in coordination with the City Clerk.

Commemoration Commission: The Commission documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemorations and recognitions in the City and recommends to the City Council procedures and programs for honoring and commemorating.

Committee on the Environment: The Committee advises the City Council on all environmental issues and serves in partnership with the Council and City staff to establish and achieve sustainability and other environmental goals.

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs: The Commission adjudicates complaints for violations of the City’s Landlord-Tenant Relations law; rules on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance; and receives on appeals from the City Manager’s decision to deny, suspend or revoke a rental housing license.

Ethics Commission: The Commission devises, receives and maintains all forms generated by the Ethics Ordinance; provides advisory opinions to persons subject to the Ordinance; hears and decides any inquiry or complaint regarding an alleged violation of the Ethics Ordinance; conducts a public information program regarding the purposes and applications of the Ordinance; recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ordinance; promulgates regulations to accompany the Ordinance; and provides and annual certification to the State Ethics Commission.

Facade Advisory Board: The Board helps to ensure that facade designs and their maintenance are harmonious and consistent with the intended quality and character of the commercial areas of Takoma Park and provides guidance and assistance to commercial property owners and business owners seeking permits for facade alterations, signs, and new construction work. The vacancy is open to a business or property owner in Old Town or Takoma Park.

Grants Review Committee: The Committee evaluates grant applications for funding from the City’s Community Quality of Life Grants Program based on established program priorities, guidelines and available funding. Applicants should have demonstrated expertise in community development, grants management, public arts, or related areas of interest.

Noise Control Board: The Board assists and advises the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance, and adjudicates two-party noise disturbance complaints.

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee: The Committee oversees implementation of and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act.

Recreation Committee: The Committee advises the City Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of the Takoma Park residents.

Youth Council: The Youth Council provides an opportunity for Takoma Park youth to acquire greater knowledge and appreciation of local government through participation and helps the City Council address the needs of Takoma Park youth. There are three vacancies on the Youth Council for residents of Wards 4, 5, or 6. Members must be in grades 7 through 12.
Review the plan online: takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/
project-directory/housing-and-economic-development-strategic-plan

PRIVATE LESSONS

From page 1

types of music, that compels him to learn about areas that he otherwise would not. “It [teaching] helps me grow as a musician, and I’m helping them grow into musicians,” he remarked. “It’s a lot of fun."

Kiran Black, 15, was a student of Leon- ard’s during her 7th and 8th grade years when she attended Takoma Park Middle School. “He was really open to teaching me what I wanted to learn — not just what he thought I should learn,” she said. Kuran plays acoustic and electric guitar. “He’s a phenomenal teacher.”

Mary Linehan, Kiran’s mother, also spoke very highly of Leonard. She mentioned that he was “fantastic,” always very supportive and that Kiran was quite comfortable being left alone with him. “From a parent’s point of view, he was a dream,” Linehan says.

Teaching has been a big part of Leon- ard’s musical life. “I’ve learned a ton through teaching, I know that,” he said. “It’s helped him push his own boundaries and get better at explaining musical concepts. According to him, “Teaching is one of the best things you can do to learn.”

Chris Reid is from the United Kingdom, where he taught math before moving to the U.S. He holds a bachelor’s in mathematics. After completing her undergraduate studies, she spent another year at SUNY-Binghamton in a master’s program for math education. Later in life, she appreciated that Reid is so approachable and easy to talk to. “I couldn’t have asked for anything better,” she said.

Barbara Gorin noted the importance of finding new students through word-of-mouth. For her tutoring, she’s had students as young as fourth grade, and she’s tutored adults as well. She’s also a Morris dancer and one of the most senior members of the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, with whom she’s been playing viola since 1993. Her passion for music and dancing means that she’s in Takoma Park regularly for practice and re- hearsals.

Gorin loves teaching and gets great satisfaction from helping her students learn. Through her tutoring, she’s able to help the kids she believes need it the most — which is something she particularly likes: “When you can explain something that gives that kid an a-ha moment, that’s my favorite thing.”
Adopt-a-Spot

Have you ever thought about adopting a spot? These people did! Adopt-a-Spot allows individuals or groups to adopt areas located within Takoma Park for regularly scheduled litter pick-ups. The City recognizes the individual or group with a sign bearing the group’s name at the spot. The City will also provide cleaning equipment, such as trash bags and gloves.

Examples of eligible locations include parks, landmarks, schools, vacant lots, walkways or trails, campuses, public grounds, or any sites prone to litter.

Contact Neighborhood Services at 301-891-7113 or neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov.

Rental housing license renewals

Rental Housing licenses expire at the end of the calendar year. Property owners with annual licenses and those with biennial licenses expiring in 2019 will receive reminders this month that it is time to renew. Renewals are done online, through the housing portal. Once the renewal application is submitted, the licensing fee for the next year (or two years, depending on the type of license) must be paid.

As long as inspections and landlord certifications associated with the rental property are up to date, the City will renew the license upon receipt of the application and fee. If you are not sure if your inspections and certification are up to date or if the rental property in which you live is licensed by the City, contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7119 or housing@takomaparkmd.gov.

What’s wrong with plastic straws?

Plastics have been with us since 1950. In a short 70 years, 9 billion metric tons have been produced (and production continues to increase), of which more than 6 billion metric tons remain with us as solid waste. It may seem like a small thing, but small things add up. Consider some facts:

- Global momentum has built to phase out single-use plastics.
- Plastic straws are one of the top items found in shoreline clean-ups and our local waterways.
- Plastic takes centuries to decompose and breaks down into smaller pieces.
- Marine animals mistake the small plastic bits for food.
- Volunteers taking part in a recent trash cleanup of the Anacostia River collected more than 4,000 straws.
- Phasing out plastic straws is one step toward a sustainable future.

The City will implement a plastic straw and stirrer ban in January 2020, which will affect all food and beverage establishments. But until then, please ask yourself, “Do I need a straw at all?”

Home Energy Efficiency

Autumn is a good time to assess and address your home’s efficiency as we wait for recommendations on City actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Did you know you can borrow a thermal scanner or a wattage meter from the library? And the City’s sustainability program web page (takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability) lists City and utility rebates for single family homes. Besides excellent utility programs, the City also offers up to $500 in rebates based on energy savings. For low- and moderate-income households some efficiency upgrades are free. And there are separate offerings for multifamily buildings.
African Dance Party with Radio Legend Georges Collinet

Night of Music and Storytelling with Georges Collinet

Nov. 22, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free Event with $10 Suggested Donation

Legendary radio host Georges Collinet has shared an eclectic mix of African music with a worldwide audience during more than half a century on air. He will tell stories about his life of radio programming in and about Africa and will share rare unseen video and audio footage from his life’s journey and friendships with Africa’s biggest stars.

D.C. Highlife Stars

Poldark’s Cornwall: Fantasies and Realities of Georgian England

Lecture by University of Maryland scholar Julie Taddeo

Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free Event

Taddeo will share her insights about Poldark and late 18th-century England during the tumultuous birth of the Industrial Revolution. She will delve into political corruption, conflicts over religion and marriage, and the social customs and fashions of daily life in Cornwall and London. Taddeo has published articles and books about Edwardian London, British period drama TV series, and other historical topics.

Poldark

Third Thursday poetry

Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free Event

Four prominent local poets will read their work on a wide variety of themes with a reception following the reading where the audience can meet the poets, including Judith Bowles, Jona Colson, Kristin Ferragut, and NaBeela Washington. Bowles earned her MFA at American University where she taught creative writing. Colson’s first poetry collection, Said Through Glass, won the 2018 Jean Feldman Poetry Prize from the Washington Writers’ Publishing House. Ferragut’s poetry has been published in several journals, and she is a regular contributor at local open mic poetry nights. Washington is pursuing a master’s degree in creative writing and poetry at Southern New Hampshire University.

I am stranded
And when I lift my lids
what I have
Led astray from what I need and prayers
I close my eyes and lose count of my
Overwrought for the future
I am then lost but soon found
Exhaling those lost
Waiting for what was and could’ve been
Breathing in the moments to come
Exhaling those lost
I close my eyes and count to ten
Yearning for what will and dreading what won’t
Tolerating the present
Overwrought for the future
I close my eyes and lose count of my
Led astray from what I need and what I have
And when I lift my lids
I am stranded
Between the imprecation heard and those unspoken
I am then lost but soon found
—NaBeela Washington

Community Stories Film Festival

Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free Event

Celebrate local filmmakers and local stories at the opening screening of the 10th annual Community Stories Film Festival. Organized by Docs in Progress, the free festival will feature short documentaries on local topics, including videos made in Takoma Park by youth from spring and summer camps. Come enjoy the films, meet the filmmakers, and learn more about the people, places, and happenings in our community.

This screening is sponsored by the City of Takoma Park’s Takoma Park Arts cultural series. The full schedule of festival films and locations is available at www.docsinprogress.org/communitystories.
YOUTH

ART
Gift-Making Workshop
Participants create seasonal artwork that may be given as gifts to friends and family. The first workshop will focus on using hand-building techniques to create one-of-a-kind sculptures, the second on glazing with food-safe glazes. There will be a $10 materials fee payable to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
6–12 years
2 Day Session
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
December 7 & 14
Resident: $35 / Non-resident: $45

CAMPS

Winter Break Camp
Come experience Winter Break Camp with the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Campers will have the opportunity to add some excitement to their break with games, group activities, and crafts. This winter break is set to be a whole lot of fun. Paperwork will need to be submitted prior to first day. Please bring a lunch and snack with you daily. There will be no camp on Monday – Wednesday, December 23–25, 2019 and January 1, 2020. Before Care and After Care available for an additional fee. Takoma Park Community Center
Azaleas Room
7500 Maple Avenue
5–12 years
4 Day Session
Thursday, Friday, Monday & Tuesday
December 26, 27, 30, 31
9–4 p.m.
Resident: $110 / Non-resident: $120

SPORTS

Winter Basketball League 2020
The Winter Basketball League is a non-competitive, developmental, community league. Program goals are to introduce youth to the fundamentals of basketball; emphasize that playing the game and being a member of a team are more important than winning by not establishing league standings or having playoffs/championship games but rather encourage personal improvement, sportsmanship, and fun; provide comparable playing time for all participants; and meet new kids from community and surrounding areas. Practice times (1 hour per week) vary throughout the week at various local schools. Games are held on Saturdays; times vary. Volunteer coaches wanted. Specific details regarding each league will be available on: takomaparkmd.gov/rec/recreation/sports/winter-basketball-league.
Team Assignments: Co-ed divisions will reflect gender equity based on number of participants.
Special Requests: Requests must be submitted through ActiveNet at time of registration.
Various Local Schools
Gymnasiums
Kindergarten–8th Grade
8 Week Season
Games starting Saturdays, January 18
Resident: $80 / Non-resident: $90

TEENS

DROP-IN
Teen Lounge
This special room is for teens only (Middle School and High School students)!
You are welcome to watch two 55-inch and one 70-inch LED SMART TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for hanging out with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and on special events for an amazing time.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Ongoing
Monday–Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
3:30–7 p.m.
Tuesday
3:30–8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed
Free

Power Hour
Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Monday–Thursday
3:30–4:30 p.m.
Free

Xpression Tuesdays
Allow your imagination and creative juices to come alive on Tuesdays in the Teen Lounge. Join Teen Lounge Staff as you express yourself through art. Create pieces that you can take home or leave in the Teen Lounge as a display. We are always looking for more ideas of ways to create and express ourselves.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Monday–Thursday
3:30–5:30 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT
Creative Cooking with Crossroads
The Healthy Eating Program is a fun and interactive hour learning course about basic cooking and kitchen skills as well as healthy recipes (easy to replicate at home). Teens will be able to learn some nutritional components and how to create their own recipes. Teens will also take a trip to the Crossroads’ Farmers market and learn about growing and purchasing the right foods. Instruction will be provided by Crossroads Farmers Market. Transportation to the Community Kitchen will be provided.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (Meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Mondays, November 4–December 16
3:45–4:45 p.m.
TP Resident: $5 / Non-resident: $10

SPECIAL EVENTS
Cornucopia Celebration
Join the Teen Program for a night to celebrate a season of gratitude. Participants will thank yourself, thanking crafts, silly games and fun activities. End the evening with a family style dinner courtesy of the Takoma Park Recreation Department’s Teen Program Division.
Transportation is not provided. Meet us there! Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Grades 6–12
Friday, November 8
6–9 p.m.
Free

Teen Ugly Sweater Holiday Party
Come out and see who wins the prize for the Ugliest Sweater! The evening will include dudgelatex games, gingerbread houses, Kwanzaa gift exchanges, food, music, fun, and more. Transportation is not provided. Meet us there! Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Grades 6–12
Friday, December 13
6–9 p.m.
Free

TRIPS
Frost Bite – Winter Break Trips
Don’t want to be stuck in the house during winter break or tired of going to the same hang out spots? Break the routine and have some fun! Join us during winter break as we take exciting trips to enjoy our break. Advanced registration is required. *Some trips may require admission and/or money for food. Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
December: 30 Laser Tag
December: 31 Main Event
10 a.m.–4 p.m.
(Price Per Trip) TP Resident: $35 / Non-resident: $45

Zumba
Come out and enjoy an hour of Zumba. Zumba is a total workout, combining all elements of fitness with cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility. Zumba takes the work out of workout, by mixing low and high intensity moves. The class will incorporate Latin music that will easily move you through your workout. Instructor: Laura Stewart
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 and older
6 Week Session
Tuesdays and Thursdays
November 5–December 19
6:30–7:30 p.m.
$75
Drop-in: $10

MOVIES & DAVE N BUSTERS TRIP
Let’s all head to the movies and afterwards we’ll get to release our energy into healthy competitions at Dave N Busters in Downtown Silver Spring. Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Tuesday, November 12
1–6 p.m.
TP Resident: $10 / Non-resident: $20

ADULTS

ART
Clay in the Studio
A great class for homeschoolers, flexible schedules and generally clay-curious. Students will utilize a variety of hand-building techniques (slab, pinch, coil) to create functional and non-functional vessels and sculptures out of clay. Caregiver participation required with young children (Ages 4–6). Adult students (Ages 16+) with experience may use the studio’s electric wheels. Beginners are welcome. There is a $20 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4 and older
Wednesdays, through December 11
10–11:30 a.m.
(No class: 11/22)
Resident: $130 / Non-resident: $150

FITNESS

Ladies Boot Camp
A challenging workout within a quick hour, this total body program includes a circuit of drills, such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. Students are required to bring their own mats. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 and older
6 Week Session
Tuesdays and Thursdays
November 5–December 19
6:30–7:30 p.m.
$75
Drop-in: $10

RECREATION □ Page 7

Page 6 □ Takoma Park News
November 2019
MARTIAL ARTS

Karate Self-Defense
Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership, and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). This program is a partnership between the Takoma Park Recreation Department and the Penn State University Karate Club. Instructor: Penn State University Karate Club
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Back Room
16 and older
Mondays & Wednesdays
Through December 18
7–8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership

Tennis Fun and Fitness
This class blends exercise with learning or reviewing tennis skills utilizing special equipment for indoor play. All equipment provided, but you can bring your own racket. Registration is required. Instructor: Coach S.J.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Thursdays, through November 21
12–1 p.m.
$5

TRIPS
Dutch Country Farmer’s Market
Laurel, MD
Friday, November 8, 8:45 a.m.–3 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Recreation Office
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
For more information contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, at 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov. Registration is required. For trip details and procedures please see the Forever Young Fall 2017 newsletter online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation.

Along with vinyl records, food trucks and arcade bars, Table Tennis, better known as Ping Pong, is steadily gaining in popularity with people of all ages especially active adults ages 55 and older. Popular for more than 100 years, table tennis is a fast game that requires quick thinking and flexibility to reach for shots and fast footwork thus creating a fun game that can help keep players physically active and mentally sharp. A 2014 Korean study, published in the Journal of Exercise Rehabilitation, found that exercises requiring the use of tools, such as a paddle and ball in table tennis, had a more positive effect on cognitive function than other activities such as dancing, walking, gymnastics and resistance training. Table tennis is a great sport for people to play at any level and a wonderful way to make friends.

During the past 10 years, there has been an increase in the popularity of the game and number of table tennis players ages 55 and older at the Takoma Park Community Center. This year a second Table Tennis Skills class led by Coach Donn Olsen was added to address the growing demand, and many of these players meet during the week to socialize and practice their skills. Ms. Kidist Gobezie said, “Coach Olsen is wonderful. The class is full of friendly people and it keeps me active. Coach Olsen’s attention to detail and easy stress-free method to teach makes this a fun class.”

Other students are pleased with the class as well, such as, Ms. Elli Kerlow who said, “Table tennis is a perfect game for older adults; it’s low impact, very social and uses your brain.” And Barry Hinderstein who said, “I’ve been playing table tennis in Takoma Park’s recreation program for eight years. It keeps me active and it’s fun!”

New players are always welcomed to join in the fun whether you are a novice or old pro. For more information about open play times and instructional classes, see the Fall 2019 City Guide or visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

Table Tennis Popularity and Growth: What’s Old is New Again

Along with vinyl records, food trucks and arcade bars, Table Tennis, better known as Ping Pong, is steadily gaining in popularity with people of all ages especially active adults ages 55 and older. Popular for more than 100 years, table tennis is a fast game that requires quick thinking and flexibility to reach for shots and fast footwork thus creating a fun game that can help keep players physically active and mentally sharp. A 2014 Korean study, published in the Journal of Exercise Rehabilitation, found that exercises requiring the use of tools, such as a paddle and ball in table tennis, had a more positive effect on cognitive function than other activities such as dancing, walking, gymnastics and resistance training. Table tennis is a great sport for people to play at any level and a wonderful way to make friends.

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Two annual favorite programs

We’ve got two popular programs coming up! First, Eaglebear returns with family and friends on Monday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m. For nearly two decades, Eaglebear, aka Tomas Shash, has been bringing songs, dances and stories from his Apache and Xicano cultures to the Takoma Park community as part of our celebration of Native American Heritage Month. All ages are welcome at this event!

Then, on Thursday evening, Dec. 19, the library will host another beloved program – our annual Winter Solstice Celebration. We’ll begin at 6:30 p.m. with a drum circle led by local musician Bill Jenkins. He’ll provide all the percussion instruments, so everyone in the audience – even babies! – can play along. Then, at 7:30 p.m., the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in with their high spirits, dances and songs. It’s a fun way to welcome the winter season, and all ages are welcome.

Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring these programs – and others – each year. For more information about the Friends of the Library, please check their Facebook page or go to https://ftpml.org.

College and career online resources

In addition to printed materials, the library has a wealth of online college and career resources – all free with your library card! To access these resources, have your library card at hand, and go to www.takomapark.info/library, then click on the “online resources” button. Next, click on the “college and career” icon. You’ll see two choices: “Career Guidance Center” or “Test Preparation.” Click on one, then put in your library number, and you’re good to go.

In the “Career Guidance Center,” you’ll find in-depth information about 140 different industries and career fields as well as thousands of professions. In addition, you can access many different career advice articles, as well as a section on college planning, including timelines, help with choosing a college and college major, and applying for student loans. Another section focuses on career skills, including putting together a resume, writing cover letters, preparing for interviews, etc. One other helpful section provides 101 tips for college graduates, including work skills, leadership skills, etc.

In the “Test Preparation” resources, you’ll first be asked to choose what kind of student you are: high school, college, etc. Depending on your answer, you’ll be led to different sections of the database. For example, if you click “high school,” you’ll find information and practice tests for the SAT and ACT, AP subject area tests, and more. Other sections for high school students focusing on searching for a college or scholarship, getting basic general skills and preparing for the high school equivalency exam. Another example, if you click “career” as your status, then you’ll be led to sections with career advice as well as career-specific practice tests, including ones for teachers, the American Foreign Service, nurses, real estate, and many more.

It’s easy to use these great free resources! All you need is your Takoma Park Maryland Library card.

Library detailed design and floodplain study moving along

To kick off the detailed design process, the City’s architect, Greg Lukmire, met with library staff last month to reorient them to the current concept designs and solicit feedback about operational needs and interests. There had been some delay related to the preparation and review of the contract with the architect after the City Council’s last action regarding the project. Detailed design, including the preparation of construction documents and permitting, is expected to last 12–13 months. Consistent with the Resolution passed by the City Council, the architect is expected to come back before the council when he reaches the point where more specific information on construction cost estimates can be obtained, which would be before any work on construction documents would begin. This should be about halfway through the detailed design process, sometime in spring 2020. The floodplain study is also proceeding – if you see surveyors on the property, that’s probably why!
What’s an Alternative Gift Fair?

- It’s a fun holiday bazaar where “shopping” means donating money to non-profits in the name of your loved ones. For your donation you get a certificate to drop into a holiday card. Shoppers also give these certificates for birthdays, weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other events.
- It’s where you learn about locally based charities serving local, regional, and international needs. There is a cause for everyone on your shopping list.
- It brightens the experience of giving at holiday time by supporting worthy causes you care about.

All charities are represented by their own staff and volunteers eager to share their mission and message. Gifts are priced from $10 to $100. Here’s a sample of the types of gifts available for purchase:
- A poetry-writing workshop for incarcerated youth in the DC jail
- Food basics for a week for a needy immigrant family in the DC area
- Education for girls at a school in Central America
- Crisis negotiation, etc. The presentations are slide show/lecture style and will be given by officers, detectives and civilians of the Takoma Park Police Department. There will also be multiple opportunities for hands-on learning through equipment demonstrations, practical scenarios, field trips and ride-alongs with patrol officers.

The Community Police Academy is free to participate. The Takoma Park Police Department encourages all applicants to be able to commit to the full 13 weeks to get the most out of the program.

If you are interested in learning about the Takoma Park Police Department and local government, you are 18 years of age or older, and live or work in Takoma Park, you may apply. The applicants may not have any serious misdemeanor or any felony offenses.

Applications for the Community Police Academy are available at the Takoma Park Police Department located at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. You may also access the application on the Takoma Park Police Academy. The deadline to turn in a completed application is Friday, December 20, 2019. Any questions about the Community Police Academy can be directed to the Public Information Officer, Cathy Plevy, at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomapark-md.gov.
Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Oct. 28, 2019, 46 people have died in fires compared to 54 in 2018.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of Oct. 28, 2019, 51 children across the country have died in hot vehicles. This brings the grand total to 848 since 1998.

Safety Message

Thanksgiving Day is around the corner, and we must be careful when cooking. Never leave cooking unattended. It’s still the Number One Cause of home fires.

Special Note: There are more fires during Thanksgiving than any other day during the year.

Kudos

On Oct. 17, the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association held its 2019 Annual Meeting. The following members of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department received honors: Chief James Jarboe, Marcine Goodloe President’s Award; EMS Lieutenant Jorge Alfaro, Hall of Fame; and Auxiliary Secretary Ashlee Willey, Administrative Member of the Year. Congratulations to all!

New Babysitters Club Graduates

On Oct. 20, the following individuals completed the Takoma Park VFD Babysitters Class: (Seated Left to Right) Beatrice Cole-Mulllin, Sarah Minicozzi, Clementine Higgins, Abigail Jackson; (Standing Left to Right) Gleanor Perese, Katherine Olson, Neo White, Lillian Coleman, Phoebe Buij, Ann Marie Smith; Not pictured Jayden Jones, Gavin Massaya and Omari Atkins. Thanks to the following for their assistance from TPPD: Tina Willey, Ashlee Willey, Ntshiuwa Sato Bess and Nissi Powell, and from the TPPD Sgt. Gregory Wolff.
Passport Services

Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Takoma Park staff encourage calling the City’s main phone number at 301-891-7100 and checking if the office is open before departing for the Community Center for passport services.

For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.

Mentoring matters

By Taylor Dibbert

Denise Jones, a 2019 Azalea Award winner in the mentor category, is a longtime Takoma Park resident who moved here in 1995. In her family, education was highly valued; she grew up understanding that having a solid education gives people more opportunities in life. This line of thinking aligns nicely with her work as a mentor.

“Everything that I’ve done has been about helping people … to help them to build capacity and have greater choice.”

And, for Jones, “that’s especially true when I’m working with young people and people of color.”

“I’m firmly committed to helping people to live their best life,” she said. Jones founded Brass Ring Company five years ago, it’s an educational and support services business. The company offers capacity-building for youth, teens and adults. There are a variety of programs, and the company also works on parent engagement.

She’s been involved in mentoring for more than 15 years. Initially, Jones was writing mentoring programs upon request. Brass Ring Company is her effort to “pull all of that together under my own heading.” Creating her own business has been both “a scary ride” and “exhilarating” for her. It’s also “been very rewarding in so many ways,” she said.

Jones now has 10 programs, including a job readiness programs for youth and adults, cultural arts programs for kids and programs related to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) for kids. Mentoring can also be challenging work. “All kids are not cookie-cutter,” she said. Kids come with a variety of personalities and a variety of needs. Trying to manage a diverse group of students can be difficult, particularly if the group is too large. According to her, it’s hard to manage a class of more than 12 to 15 children.

Brass Ring Company (which is actually a team of one) partners with various people and organizations. The company’s institutional partner is Carpe Diem Arts, where Jones serves as the community engagement director. Brass Ring Company and Carpe Diem Arts, which brings visual, literary and performance arts to communities of all ages, have “similar ideas about supporting community-building,” Jones said, describing her mentoring programs as “art-infused.”

She’s passionate about helping others to aim high and go after opportunities that they might not be aware of. “I try to let kids know that they are capable and that they can learn all the things that they need to live their best life,” she said. “I am encouraging.” She believes in experiential learning and provides opportunities for children to work with their hands.

“The reason why I do this work is because … if you are not aware of the skills and mindset and opportunities early enough, then you miss out on those opportunities,” she said. “If I can let parents and youth know that these opportunities are out there, and this is what is required for you to take advantage of those things, then I feel like I’m helping.”

“I don’t actually see the fruits of my labor because I’m pouring into people something that they will take to use later,” she said. Though Jones does see “a-ha moments” along the way, which is gratifying: “I know that what I’m doing matters.”

Mentoring matters

By Taylor Dibbert

Denise Jones, a 2019 Azalea Award winner in the mentor category
PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Monday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.
TPC Auditorium
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/meetings.

Veterans Day – City Offices Closed
Monday, Nov. 11
All City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Nov. 11, for the Veterans Day. The Takoma Park Police Department is always open for emergencies.

Thanksgiving – City Offices Closed
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29
All City offices and facilities will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is always open for emergencies.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry
First Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families

400-450-2892 or edenpe_s@yahoo.com
www.educareselfdefense.org

COMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Circle Time
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.
A beloved local tradition, the 30-minute program of songs, fingerplays, rhymes, movement exercises and stories teach early literacy concepts in a fun way. The program is geared for infants through preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Takoma Park Maryland Library

Spanish Circle Time
Thursday, 10:30 a.m.
Join Senor Geza for a 30-minute program highlighting basic Spanish vocabulary through songs and rhymes.

Takoma Park Maryland Library

The Spirit Club
Wednesday, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Therapeutic recreation class for Takoma Park residents 17 and older.

This class is designed for adults with developmental/ neuromotoric challenges. For more information, contact Jared Ciner at join@spiritclub.com or 303-883-4364.

Kids’ Night Out
First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Fun and games for kids

Takoma Park Farmers Market
Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Year-round
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town

Takoma Park Maryland Library

Top Notch Toymasters
Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Improve your communication and leadership skills. Top Notch Toymasters meetings provide opportunities for positive, supportive development of personal and interpersonal skills that will make you a better communicator, a better leader. Come to our meetings to sharpen your abilities, meet new friends, and make a difference in your life.

Community Self Defense
Wednesday, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
6336 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park
Certified Jiu Jitsu Black Belt instruction Free and open to all.

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)
First Thursdays, 7 p.m.
TP Community Center
This support and advocacy group of parents and other loved ones of adults with special needs including, Down’s syndrome, and severe chronic psychiatric issues usually meets the first Thursdays of every month. For more information, contact Mary Muschi at muchi@nalas.com.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

Agincourt Well Seminar: Legal Issues and Resources for Seniors
Thursday, Oct. 31, noon – 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center, Azalea Room
Join us to gain important information shared by an elder-law specialist from The Montgomery County Bar Association and Legal Aid. This event is free and open to all, no pre-registration required. Refreshments will be provided for more information, visit villagetakomapark.com/calendar or call 301-486-2179.

Reduce it! Clever Ideas for How to Reduce and Reuse in Daily Living
Thursday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Tanya DeKona, also known as the “Green Elf,” is a Takoma Park native with years of experience in reducing waste. Everyone uses resources, but resources can be used in intelligent ways (even some plastics!) Come to this lively, interactive event to see and learn easy, creative ways that you can reduce waste in your home and community. When you reduce resource use, you take an active role in slowing climate change. You are guaranteed to walk away from this presentation with ideas that you can start using tomorrow. Free

14th Annual Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale
Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
TP Community Center
The popular Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale returns for its 14th year, offering a wide variety of original handmade work by local artists, including fine art, photography, jewelry, clothing, pottery, crafts, and more. Buy your holiday gifts early and support local artists who make Takoma Park a creative place to live and shop.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People’s Open Mic
Sundays, 9 p.m.

Community Stories Film Festival
Thursday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Celebrated local filmmakers and local stories at the opening screening of the 10th annual Community Stories Film Festival. Organized by Docs in Progress, the festival will feature short documentaries on local topics, including videos made in Takoma Park by youth from summer and campers. Come enjoy the films, meet the filmmakers, and learn more about the people, places, and happenings in our community. The full schedule of festival films and locations is available at www.docsinprogress.org/communitystories. See page 5 for more details.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Crossroads Holiday Market
Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Recently Takoma Park (as well as the entire DMV area) experienced a large increase in the number of oaks dying, especially white oaks. Join several local experts to learn what is known so far about the causes and what steps residents can take. The meeting will include brief presentations from three experts followed by a question and answer period. The experts include Colleen Kenny, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service; Keith Pitchford, independent tree care consultant; Pischke and Associates; Sara Larkin, Horticulturist, SavATree; and Christopher Larkin, arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Takoma Park Community Band
Monday, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Heftfer Park Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.
Join the Takoma Park Community Band for weekly rehearsals at the Heftfer Park Community Center. No audition required, just plenty of enthusiasm.

Drum for Joy! with Joaquin MacMillan
Monday, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Republic Restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic Night
Tuesdays, 9 – 11 p.m.
Busboys and Poets, 225 Carroll St. NW

Jazz Jam
Thursday, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station, 8141 14th St. NW

Blues Mondays
Monday, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Republic Restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic for jazz musicians
Wednesday Night Drum Jam
Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St. NW

Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends

Puppet Lab
First Saturdays, 10 a.m. – noon
Rhoda Scott, 6959 Maple St. NW

Puppet Lab’s role is to be a hub for all those interested in puppet theater who would benefit from accessing creative power, honing manipulation skills, cross-pollinating ideas, receiving feedback about work in progress, and building local puppet community. Suggested $10 donation

Poldark’s Cornwall: Fantasies and Realities of Georgian England
Lecture by University of Maryland scholar Julie Taddeo Thursday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
In the wildly popular British TV series Poldark, the fantasies of Georgian England and its historical realities aren’t far apart. Captain Ross Poldark, a fictional character from a series of novels by British author Winston Graham, returns debutaed after fighting in the American War of Independence to discover his Cornwall estate in ruins and his former fiancée engaged to his cousin. He then buckles down and reopens his family’s copper mines, marries his kitchen servant, and fights for economic and social justice for his employees. University of Maryland scholar Julie Taddeo will share her insights about Poldark and late 18th-century England. Taddeo has published articles and books about Edwardian London, British period drama TV series, and other historical topics.

Kids Author Andrea Beaty
Friday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
The library will host author Andrea Beaty, who is known for a series of best-selling picture books called the Questioneers series. Beaty will be joined by Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart, who will talk briefly about how she got involved in politics and offer advice for aspiring young politicians in the audience about how they can make a difference in their community. See page 8 for details.

Carpe Diem Revels Family Community Sing
Thursday, Nov. 21, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Four prominent local poets will read their work on a wide variety of themes with a reception following the reading where the audience can meet the poets, including Judith Bowles, Jona Colson, Kristin Ferrage, and NaBeele Washington.

Cape Dream Revels Family Community Sing
Thursday, Nov. 21, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Seasrchers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW

The Cape Dream Revels Family Community Sing is an opportunity for families of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the experience of singing together in harmony, celebrating diverse cultures and traditions of song. The event features numerous guest song leaders. Suggested $5 donation

African Dance Party with Radio Legend Georgeell Collins
Friday, Nov. 22, 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Celebrated local host Georgeell Collins has shared an eclectic mix of African music with a worldwidens audience during more than half a century on the air. He will share African music and dance with a diverse audience of radio programming in and about Africa and we will share rare unedited video and audio footage from his life’s journey and friendships with Africa’s biggest stars. Eme and Michael, hosts of the popular Jolly Pappa African music program on Takoma Radio, will serve as emcees and lead their D.C. Highlife Stars and friends band that will take the stage after Collins. See page 5 for more details.

Free Event with $10 suggested donation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Crossroads Holiday Market
Sunday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
TP Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we’ll consider it for inclusion in the calendar.

Deadline for the December issue is Nov. 8, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Nov. 22. To submit your calendar item, email newsweekly@takomaparkmd.com.

*TP Community Center* is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7000 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.